April 9, 1975

the people of the state will benefit from the bill. I compliment Senator George in introducing this bill. I am in full support of the bill as he has it but I think it would even go one step further, if we could add this amendment. So I move the amendment be passed.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator George.

SENATOR GEORGE: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I have discussed this amendment with Senator Burrows a few times. I wish this would be possible to add to my bill. We have already, with Senator Koch's amendment, widened my bill so that there will be two days instead of one day open for general registration, one day before the primary and one day before general election. We have also widened it for metropolitan areas and we have spread out the places where people can register. I have discussed this Burrows amendment with some county clerks and I am sorry to say this is just technically not possible. I know Senator Burrows first thought of having the registration possible on election day and he has reduced that now just to the primary and I think he is under the impression that there will be less people there and it would be possible. I have tried to come up with some simplified form that would make it possible for people to register on election day without actually involving the county clerk. Unfortunately, that also is not possible. The county clerk simply has to get the maps out, check the township, check the precinct, check the political party registration and that is a long process and during an election day, it is just impossible to involve the county clerk with that kind of work and, therefore, I am sorry to say that I have to oppose the Burrows amendment. It is technically not possible to do so.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that from the practical aspect, if a person had not registered before election day, that individual would be very, very hesitant to go to the polling place and have her friends and neighbors know that she hadn't gotten around to register and while they are getting to vote, all she is doing is filing the papers so that she can vote the next time. I would think that most individuals would hesitate to go on an election day to register to vote. That's the day they are suppose to vote so the time ahead of the election would be much more important for the registration of votes.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I don't have a vendetta with Senator Marsh this morning but she limited the application of this bill to ladies. She said, she might be reluctant to register on election day. It applies...oh, she said she did it on purpose. It applies to all citizens who are old enough by law to vote and the rationale behind this bill, as I understand it, or this amendment now is that when voting day comes, there are precincts or polling places where people vote and these are closer to the residents of individuals who find difficulty getting to the county court house to register. So all that it is doing is decentralizing the registration point and it is bringing